

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
WATER BUREAU



**GUIDANCE ON MICHIGAN'S INDUSTRIAL STORM WATER PERMIT PROGRAM**

This guidance provides information on Michigan's general permits for discharges of storm water regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

**Purpose of the Industrial Storm Water Program**

The industrial storm water program is intended to protect the quality of lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands from industrial activities that could pollute rain water and snowmelt as they drain to surface waters.

**Eligibility**

A general permit is available to facilities that have point source storm water discharges associated with industrial activities as defined in the federal storm water regulations codified at 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14). A list of the types of industries covered by the federal storm water regulations is attached to this Guidance. A "point source" is defined as any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance including, but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, or anything that conveys storm water into surface waters. In most cases, land graded to convey storm water off or across a piece of property would create a point source.

Facilities that are covered under a permit for storm water discharges associated with industrial activity are subject to a \$260 annual fee. The general storm water permits apply to facilities located anywhere within the State of Michigan except for Federal Tribal Lands.

**General Requirements**

The permit applicant shall develop a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) with three major components: 1) identify significant materials that exist at the permitted site and can contaminate storm water, 2) take steps to prevent storm water at the site from becoming contaminated with significant materials, and 3) control storm water that may have become contaminated through contact with significant materials at the site.

Both non-structural and structural storm water pollution prevention controls may be needed to prevent contaminated storm water from being discharged to surface waters. Non-structural controls include keeping operations organized and clean (good housekeeping), regular inspections for leaks and faulty equipment, employee training, and spill prevention and response planning. Structural controls may include covers, roofs and diversions to keep storm water away from

contaminant sources, as well as treatment devices such as oil/water separators, filters and detention basins.

The permit applicant must ensure that all non-storm water discharges to surface waters are either eliminated or covered under an appropriate discharge permit.

The permittee shall have storm water treatment and control measures under the supervision of a storm water operator certified by the MDEQ. A person may become certified by contacting a storm water staff person at any MDEQ district office for a training manual and to sign up for a training and examination session. Training sessions are offered regularly in every district office. The materials and exam are provided at no cost.

**Types of Permits**

There are two types of general industrial storm water permits in Michigan: 1) Storm Water from Industrial Activity, and 2) Storm Water With Required Monitoring. Some facilities may not be eligible for the permit for Storm Water from Industrial Activity because of storm water discharges from one of the following areas of concern: 1) secondary containment structure(s) mandated by state or federal regulations, 2) a site of environmental contamination or clean-up pursuant to Part 201 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (P.A. 451, 1994 as amended, or 3) areas or activities designated a "significant contributor to pollution" by MDEQ. If your facility meets one of these 3 criteria you may seek coverage under the permit for Storm Water With Required Monitoring.

*Only* those permittees subject to coverage With Required Monitoring must conduct a short-term characterization study of the storm water being discharged from the area of concern (e.g. secondary containment area). The permittee must submit a study plan to the MDEQ district office within 6 months of obtaining permit coverage.

**Application Requirements**

A Notice of Intent (NOI) form (attached) should be submitted to the DEQ Surface Water Permits Section, along with certification that your SWPPP has been completed and that your facility has no unpermitted discharges. The MDEQ will review completed NOI forms to determine if coverage under a general permit is appropriate. The MDEQ will grant coverage under the general permit by mailing each eligible facility a Certificate of Coverage signed by the District Supervisor of the Water Bureau.